

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 07996 181754Z

47

ACTION EUR-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-01 PA-01 /005 W

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P R 181702Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USIA WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 9255

UNCLAS LISBON 7996

USINFO WASHDC FOR IOP/M, IBS/PE

USIA WASHDC FOR IEU/MCLAUGHLIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PO

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

1. U.S. LOAN TO PORTUGAL: PROMINENT PRESS COVERAGE GIVEN NOVEMBER 18 TO NYTIMES GWERTZMAN ARTICLE. TYPICAL FRONT-PAGE HEADLINES: "MORE THAN 9 MILLION CONTOS FROM THE U.S. TO PORTUGAL." MOST PAPERS STRESSED THE EMERGENCY AID NATURE OF PROPOSED LOAN. "O DIA" NOVEMBER 18 REPORTED: "THE URGENCY OF THIS AID WAS DETERMINED BY THE 'GRAVE ECONOMIC SITUATION' OF OUR COUNTRY."

2. TELEVISION COVERAGE U.S. LOAN: FURTHER REGURGITATING OF NYTIMES ARTICLE WAS PRESENTED IN PORTUGUESE STATE TV PRIME-EVENING NEWSCAST NOVEMBER 17. NEWSCASTER OBVIOUSLY HAD CONFUSING NOTES AND AFTER A SERIES OF ASSERTIONS AND RETRACTIONS, NEITHER NEWSCASTER NOR AUDIENCE KNEW WHAT THE PROPOSED LOAN AMOUNTS WERE OR WHETHER THEY WERE IN ESCUDOS OR DOLLARS'.

3. SANTAREM FILM FESTIVAL: "O DIA" NOVEMBER 18, DESCRIBED USIS PROVIDED FILMS "ESTUARY" AND "CENTURY 3" AS AMONG THE "BEST" AT FESTIVAL.

4. CARTER COVERAGE: "GENTE" WEEKLY MAGAZINE NOVEMBER 17
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CARRIED FOUR PAGE ARTICLE, "WHO IS JIMMY CARTER, THE NEW

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES", WITH USIS SUPPLIED MATERIAL.

5. COMMUNIST PRESS: "O DIARIO" NOVEMBER 18 REPORTING ON NYTIMES ARTICLE ON LOAN, SAID "THE STILL SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER, ALTHOUGH HE IS POSTPONING MOST FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS FOR THE NEXT GOVERNMENT, MANAGED TO HAVE THE FORD ADMINISTRATION APPROVE AN EMERGENCY LOAN OF THE 300 MILLION DOLLARS TO THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT." KISSINGER WAS THE TARGET OF ANOTHER ATTACK BY "O DIARIO" IN NOVEMBER 18 ISSUE. IN AN ARTICLE HEADLINED, "KISSINGER REAFFIRMS IMPERIALISTIC POSITION", SCATHING COMMENTARY SAID THAT KISSINGER SPEECH AT NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY IN WILLIAMSBURG WAS INTERPRETED AS "A DESPERATE ATTEMPT FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THE REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION WHICH HE HAD HELPED BURY." JORDAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, LOANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LISBON07996
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760430-0896
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761135/aaaabdvt.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2004 by vandyklc>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION
TAGS: SOPN, PO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006